

Amendments to the Claims:

1) canceled.

2) (currently amended): A process ~~or system~~ for improving watermark detection
comprising: [[by]]

receiving an image; and

applying different compensation to the ~~[[an]]~~ image in the "x" and "y" (that is, the
vertical and horizontal) directions to reduce artifacts ~~eliminate anomalies~~ introduced by a
printer or scanner which differ in the "x" and "y" directions.

3) (currently amended): In a system that includes a scanner that includes a
down loadable tone map, a scanner driver that includes a calibrated tone map for the
scanner and user controls which control modification of said calibrated tone map to
generate a user adjusted tone map, said scanner generating an image which has been
modified by said user controlled tone map,

the an improvement comprising a program to reverse an the action on said
image of the user modifications to said calibrated tone map.

4) (currently amended): A method of reading a watermark or pattern from a
digital image generated by a scanner from a hard-copy image, said digital image most
nearly matching said hard-copy image when the image generated by said scanner is
modified in accordance with a calibrated tone map, said method comprising: comprising,
down-loading into said scanner a user modified tone map,

modifying said image in said scanner with said user modified tone map,
 transferring said scanner modified image to a computer communicating with
~~attached to~~ said scanner,
 modifying said modified image with a tone map that reverses any differences
 between said calibrated tone map and said user modified tone map to generate a
 reverse modified tone map, and
 reading said watermark or detecting said pattern in said image.

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 5) (currently amended): A method of controlling operations with data carried in
 a physical image comprising: ~~the steps of:~~

scanning said physical image with a scanner which has an associated calibrated
 tone map which will compensate for differences between an ~~the~~ image generated by
 said scanner and ~~the~~ characteristics of said physical image,

adjusting said calibrated tone map in accordance with user supplied parameters
 to produce a user adjusted tone map,

applying said user adjusted tone map to said image to produce a user desired
 image,

applying a tone map to said user desired image which is an ~~the~~ inverse of
~~adjustments the changes~~ made to said calibrated tone map to produce ~~generate~~ said
 user adjusted ~~desired~~ tone map, to generate an image that corresponds to the image
 generated by said scanner that is compensated by said calibrated tone map,

reading at least one characteristic ~~a characteristics~~ of said image, and
 controlling said operations with the result of said reading step.

6) (original): The method recited in claim 5 wherein said reading step reads a
 digital watermark from said image.

7) (original): The method recited in claim 5 wherein said reading step detects a shape in said image.

8) (currently amended): The method recited in claim 5 wherein said reading step reads attempts to both read a digital watermark from said image and to detect and ~~detects~~ a shape in said object.

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9) (currently amended): A method of operating on an image comprising: the steps of

generating a first digital image from a physical document,
applying a first tone map to said image to generate an adjusted digital image,
applying a ~~[[a]]~~ second tone map to said adjusted digital image to generate
~~generated~~ a corrected digital image, said second tone map adapted to reverse ~~[[a]]~~
changes made to said first digital image that differ from changes specified by ~~[[a]]~~
reference data calibrated tone map, and

operating upon said corrected digital image to determine characteristics of said corrected digital image.

10) (original): The method recited in claim 9 wherein said corrected digital image is operated upon to read a digital watermark from said corrected digital image.

11) (currently amended): The method recited in claim 9 wherein said corrected digital image is operated upon to detect a pattern in ~~from~~ said corrected digital image.

12) (currently amended): A system which includes:

a scanner which has an the ability to apply a tone map to a scanned image, and
a data source which calculates a user adjusted tone map by applying to a calibrated
tone map user established parameters, said data source having an the ability to down
load said user adjusted tone map to said scanner, said scanner adapted to apply
~~applying~~ said user adjusted tone map to said scanned image to generate an adjusted
image,

*all
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an inverse user adjustment program that generates a corrected image by
applying to said adjusted image a tone map that reverses changes made to said
calibrated tone map to generate said user adjusted tone map, and
a program for detecting characteristics of data in said image.

13) (original): The system recited in claim 12 wherein said program for detecting
characteristics of data in said image comprises a watermark reading program.

14) (original): The system recited in claim 12 wherein said program for detecting
characteristics of data in said image comprises a program for detecting shapes in said
image.

15) (currently amended): A system for operating on an image comprising:
an image acquisition device for generating a first digital image from a physical
document, said image acquisition device applying a first tone map to said first digital
image to generate an adjusted digital image,
an inverse user adjustment program for applying a second tone map to said
adjusted digital image to generate ~~generated~~ a corrected digital image, said second tone

map adapted to reverse ~~[[an]]~~ changes made to said first digital image that differ from changes specified by a calibrated tone map, and

a program which operates upon said corrected digital image to determine characteristics of said corrected digital image.

16) (original): The system recited in claim 15 wherein said program which operates upon said corrected image is a watermark reading program.

17) (currently amended): The system recited in claim 15 wherein said program which operates upon said corrected image is a program which detects particular shapes in said corrected image.

18) (currently amended): A system for operating on an image comprising:
acquisition means for acquiring a first digital image from a physical document,
said acquisition means applying a first tone map to said first digital image to generate an adjusted digital image,

means for applying a second tone map to said adjusted digital image to generate ~~generated~~ a corrected digital image, said second tone map adapted to reverse ~~[[an]]~~ changes made to said first digital image that differ from changes specified by a calibrated tone map, and

detection means for operating upon said corrected digital image to determine characteristics of said corrected digital image.

19) (original): The system recited in claim 18 wherein said detection means comprises a watermark reading program.

20) (currently amended): The system recited in claim 18 wherein said acquisition means comprises ~~[[is]]~~ a scanner.

21) (currently amended): The system recited in claim 18 wherein said detection means comprises ~~comprises~~ a program to detect a shape in an image.

22) canceled.

23) (currently amended): The system recited in claim 18 wherein said acquisition means comprises ~~[[is]]~~ a ScanJet 6300c scanner.

24) (currently amended): A method of creating a digital image that corresponds to an image on a physical document, said method comprising:

scanning said physical document with a scanner to produce a first digital image, a ~~the~~ frequency response of said scanner decreasing at higher frequency values, and

filtering said first digital image with a filter which compensates for the frequency response of said scanner.

25) (currently amended): A system which includes:

a TWAIN compliant scanner which has an ~~the~~ ability to apply a tone map to a scanned image, and a TWAIN data source which calculates a user adjusted tone map by applying to a calibrated tone map user established parameters, said TWAIN data source having an ~~the~~ ability to down load to said scanner said user adjusted tone map, said scanner adapted to apply ~~applying~~ said user adjusted tone map to said scanned image to generate an adjusted image,

an inverse user adjustment program that generates a corrected image by applying to said adjusted image a tone map that reverses changes made to said calibrated tone map to generate said user adjusted tone map, and
a computer program for which examines characteristics of said corrected image.

26) (original): The system recited in claim 25 wherein said program is adapted to read a digital watermark in said image.

27. (new): A method comprising:

receiving image data from an optical scanner, wherein the image data corresponds to a physical object, and wherein the image data comprises adjustments reflecting user-dependent factors;

adjusting the image data to counter-balance at least some of the adjustments attributable to the user-dependent factors, said adjusting yielding adjusted image data;
and

analyzing the adjusted image data to find at least one of machine-readable indicia and a predetermined pattern.

28. (new): The method of claim 27, wherein the optical scanner comprises a digital camera.

29. (new): The method of claim 27, wherein the machine-readable indicia comprises digital watermarking.